

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-11 SAJ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01

CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAL-01

AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-10 OIC-02 /144 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 665

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USUN NEW YORK 4939

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3194

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, UR

SUBJECT: LOS: ARCHIPELAGOS

REF: USNATO 1029 (NOTAL), STATE 47022 (NOTAL), STATE 48305 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY'S LOS OFFICER CALLED ON MFA COUNSELLORS YAKOVLEV AND KACHARYAN OF THE TREATY AND LEGAL DIVISION ON MARCH 1 TO URGE FIRM SOVIET ADHERENCE TO AGREED GROUP OF FIVE POSITIONS ON STRAITS AND ARCHIPELAGOS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH INDONESIA OR OTHER COUNTRIES.

2. YAKOVLEV, WHO IS THE LEADING SOVIET "EXPERT" ON THIS QUESTION AND WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE NEW YORK SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE, RESPONDED BY SAYING FIRST THAT THE INDONESIANS WERE NOT RPT NOT COMING TO MOSCOW AT THIS TIME.
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ANY FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH THEM OR OTHERS WOULD BE HELD IN

NEW YORK BEFORE OR DURING THE CONFERENCE. THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE IS EXTREMELY BUSY MAKING FINAL PREPARATIONS BEFORE ITS DEPARTURE NEXT WEEK, HE SAID, AND ADDED THAT THE SOVIET 25TH PARTY CONGRESS WOULD ALSO HAVE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO RECEIVE THE INDONESIANS APPROPRIATELY. A MEETING IN JANUARY HAD BEEN SUGGESTED BUT THE TIMING DID NOT WORK OUT. THE SOVIET DELEGATION WOULD OF COURSE BE CONSULTING WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK INCLUDING MOST IMPORTANTLY THE U.S. DELEGATION. (HE SAID UNOFFICIALLY THAT THEY EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE PROPOSED BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 13 AT USUN, BUT THAT THEY WERE NOT YET ABLE TO REPLY OFFICIALLY BECAUSE OF PARTY CONGRESS ACTIVITIES).

3. YAKOVLEV SAID THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE PREPARED THEIR SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT, BUT THAT THE CLEARANCE PROCESS IN THE OTHER MINISTRIES WAS NOT YET COMPLETED. HE HINTED THAT THERE IS A POLITICAL FACTOR IN THE PHRASING OF SOME AMENDMENTS. THE SOVIETS WOULD PROPOSE SOME REVISIONS IN THE U.S. PROPOSED LANGUAGE, HE SAID, SO THAT "WE WILL NOT SEEM TO BE COLLUDING TOGETHER." "YOU DON'T HAVE THAT PROBLEM," HE ADDED, WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC ABOUT ISSUES REQUIRING SUCH COSMETIC TREATMENT.

4. ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE QUESTION OF STRAITS AND ARCHIPELAGOS, YAKOVLEV SAID THAT THE SOVIET POSITION WAS FIRM AND WOULD REMAIN SO. THE OVERRIDING ISSUE FROM MOSCOW'S STAND-POINT WAS "FREE" OR "UNIMPEDED" PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS AND INTERNATIONAL WATERWAYS, AND THE ARCHIPELAGO ISSUE MUST BE HANDLED IN THIS CONTEXT, HE SAID. THE SOVIETS FIRMLY OPPOSE ANY UNILATERAL, BILATERAL OR EVEN MULTILATERAL UNDERTAKINGS ON THIS OR ANY OTHER POINT WHICH WOULD WEAKEN THE POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING A COMPREHENSIVE AND ACCEPTABLE LOS TREATY. HE ASKED WHETHER U.S. CONSULTATIONS WITH INDONESIA HAD SHOWN ANY SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN INDONESIA'S POSITION, SUCH AS A DECISION TO SEEK AN UNDERSTANDING OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF AN LOS TREATY. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT WE WERE NOT AWARE THAT INDONESIA HAD SUCH AN INTENTION, BUT WERE CONCERNED TO HEAD OFF ANY POSSIBLE ENCOURAGEMENT, EVEN IMPLICIT ENCOURAGEMENT, FOR THEM TO SEEK A UNILATERAL SOLUTION. YAKOVLEV
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SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED, REITERATING THAT THE SOVIETS SUPPORT THE COMPROMISE WORDING ON STRAITS AND ARCHIPELAGOS WORKED OUT IN THE GROUP OF FIVE. STOESSEL

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